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REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District,

FOR THE YEAR 1915.




CHARLES COURT, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIRKHAM:

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1915 on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Kirkham Urban District.

The Local Government Board, by circular letter dated December, 1915, state, in view of the present circumstances, they consider "that many of the details usually inserted in Medical Officers' Annual Reports, such as a description of the district, and of the water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, etc., may be omitted, and that the report may be confined to a record of what has taken place during the year."

AREA.—The area of the district is 857 statute acres.

ESTIMATED POPULATION. — The Registrar-General, through the County Medical Officer of Health, has supplied me with an estimate of the civil population of my district for use in my Annual Report for 1915, viz., 3,616. Last year (1914) I estimated the population at 3,950. In this connection, instructions have also been issued that deaths of mem-

bers of the armed forces of this or other countries be excluded from local statistics ; hence the calculation of death-rates on an estimate of the civil population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.—The births registered during the year under report numbered 62, including 2 inward transfers—males 34, females 28—and calculated on last year's population equals a rate of 15·6 per 1,000, considerably below any rate previously recorded. The average birth-rate for the decennial period 1905-14 was 23·8, that is 8·2 less than the decennial period ending 1913.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered in the district was 44, but three of these are excluded as “non-residents.” Nine deaths of Kirkham residents have occurred outside the district, viz., 5 in the Fylde Union Workhouse, 1 at a Nurses' Home in Preston, 1 at the Preston Royal Infirmary, 1 at Whittingham Asylum and 1 at the Luneside Sanatorium, Lancaster. The nett deaths actually belonging to the district were therefore 50—males 25, females 25—corresponding to a death-rate of 13·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Last year, calculated on the normal population, the rate was 14·9, and the average of the ten years 1905-1914 was 17·2. The rate for the year under report was the lowest ever recorded for the district.

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.—To this group of diseases only 3 fatalities were attributed, viz. : Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 1 and Diarrhœa 1. The epidemic death-rate corresponded to 0·82 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 1·01 last year, 2·08 in 1913, and an average of 2·16 for the ten years 1905-14.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) constituted 3 deaths—a rate of 0·82 per 1,000. Last year there were 8 deaths or a rate of 2·02.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA together caused 4 deaths, equal to a rate of 1·10 per 1,000. In 1914 these diseases were responsible for 5 deaths, or a rate of 1·26 per 1,000. In 1913 8 fatalities were registered, a rate of 2·08 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Seven deaths were recorded of infants under the age of 1 year, viz. : 4 under 4 weeks, 1 between 1 and 3 months, 1 between 3 and 6 months and 1 between 6 and 9 months; calculated per 1,000 births registered the rate was 112, against a rate of 76 last year, 348 in 1913, 172 in 1912, and an average of 175 for the decennial period 1905-14. Table IV. appended analyses the causes of the infant deaths at various age periods. The cause of four of the infantile deaths being Marasmus, and their ages varying from 5 minutes to 21 days points to want of care and bad feeding. Seeing that four of the deaths occurred between the ages of 5 minutes and 21 days, and as the cause of death given was Marasmus—synonymous to want of care and bad feeding, this points to the great necessity of fully-trained midwives, and the total abolition of the “Sairey Gamp” style of nurse, who attend by far the larger number of labours in the district.

DEATHS OF PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS AND UPWARDS.—Seven of the total deaths were amongst persons 65 years and upwards, viz. : 1 each at 65 and 71, 2 each at 73 and 76, 1 at 78, 2 at 79 and 1 each at 80 and 84.

The following table shows the birth and death rates, with the epidemic and infantile mortalities during the past ten years.—

Year		Birth-rate		Death-rate		Epidemic Death-rate		Infantile Death-rate
1906	...	28·6	...	16·8	...	2·39	...	120
1907	...	27·4	...	15·8	...	0·26	...	125
1908	...	23·7	...	18·3	...	4·13	...	184
1909	...	24·3	...	16·2	...	0·76	...	135
1910	...	21·8	...	14·1	...	1·73	...	170
1911	...	19·7	...	25·0	...	3·69	...	240
1912	...	21·2	...	14·1	...	1·83	...	172
1913	...	22·4	...	17·7	...	2·08	...	348
1914	...	23·0	...	14·9	...	1·01	...	76
1915	...	17·1	...	13·8	...	0·82	...	112

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Forty-nine cases were notified under the Provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, viz. :—Scarlet Fever 29, Diphtheria 4, Puerperal Septicaemia 4 and Erysipelas 3 ; also 8 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 of other form of Tuberculosis.

The following Summary shows the number of Notifications in each of the past five years, 1911-15, inclusive :—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	29	3	11	3	3	49
Diphtheria	4	3	8	3	13	31
Enteric Fever	—	3	1	9	9	22
Erysipelas	3	2	4	1	1	11
Puerperal Septicaemia	4	2	—	2	—	8
Tubercular Diseases ..	9	7	10	5	9	40
	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 35	<hr/> 161

Of the 49 cases notified, 24 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, viz. : 20 of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria and 1 of Puerperal Septicaemia, the remaining 9 cases of Scarlet Fever (1 of which was fatal), 1 of Diphtheria and 3 of Puerperal were treated at home.

Of the Tubercular cases, three were treated at various sanatoria, one case terminated fatally at home, one at a sanatorium and one at an asylum, and one who was treated at a sanatorium is progressing very favourably, in fact, one might say “quite recovered,” the remaining cases all holding their own.

The following table gives the months in which the epidemic diseases occurred :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Tuberculosis
Jan. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1
March ..	—	—	—	1	—	3
April ..	2	—	—	1	—	—
May ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	1	1	—	—	1	1
July ..	—	1	—	—	1	1
Aug. ..	—	—	—	1	1	1
Sept. ..	11	2	—	—	—	1
Oct. ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. ..	6	—	—	—	1	1
Total ..	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 4	<hr/> —	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 9

The districts in which infantile deaths, infectious diseases and Tuberculosis cases occurred were as follows :—

	Infant Deaths			Infectious Diseases			Tuberculosis			
Marsden Street } and Stanley Street }	—	3	..	..	2	
Freckleton Street	—	2 1 f.	..	..	—
Preston Street	2	..	..	6	..	..	—
Church Street	1	..	..	2	..	..	—
Poulton Street } and Birley Street }	—	4	..	..	1 f.	
Moor Street } with Cottage Homes }	—	4	..	..	—
Ribby Road, } Ward Street and Fylde Street }	—	4	1
Station Road } and Barnfield }	3	..	..	5	..	..	2 im.	
Sunny Bank	1	10	2
South View	—	—	1
f.—fatal.			im.—improving.							

f.—fatal.

im.—improving.

SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 29. Deaths 1.

Of the 29 cases, 6 occurred in the first six months of the year—these were more or less sporadic—of the remaining 23 cases occurring in September, October, November and December; the origin of these was traced to a soldier's family who had come to reside in Wesham, some of the members of this family were not clear of the disease when they arrived in the neighbourhood.

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases 4. Deaths 0.

The origin of two of these cases was doubtless due to unhealthy surroundings, but improvements have been in hand for several months, but owing to the great pressure of work the contractors have not been able so far to cope with it entirely. In regard to the remaining two cases, no cause could be discovered.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Cases 0.

There have been great improvements made in the sanitation of those parts of the town which formerly contributed cases of this kind.

PUERPERAL SEPTICAEMIA.

Cases 4 (1 fatal).

These cases occurred in June, July, August and December. No external cause could account for these cases.

ERYSIPELAS.

Cases 3. Deaths 0.

These cases occurred in March, April and August. No cause could be discovered to account for the origin of these cases.

SMALL-POX.

No cases have occurred during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition is very satisfactory, and the Schools, four in number, contain the following number of scholars :—

Grammar School	91
Council School	156
R.C. School	237
C.E. School	382

With the exception of the Council Schools, which were closed for a fortnight in February on account of Measles, none of the Schools have been closed on account of epidemic diseases during the last ten years. All the Schools were disinfected during the summer holidays, and the Council Schools also at Christmas-time. As the Council Schools are used for technical instruction, and the pupils are drafted there from the surrounding country districts, I consider there is a great risk of infec-

tion being brought to this School, thence to the town by the children coming here from infected districts. The School itself is built on modern lines, and there is practically no risk of infection arising from the School itself or its surroundings.

As to the GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 1 case of epidemic disease occurred, but it was imported from Blackpool, and was removed to a sanatorium at once. This School is thoroughly up-to-date, and is situated in most healthy surroundings, just on the outskirts of the town, and attracts pupils from a large outlying area.

The C.E. SCHOOLS have been greatly improved in the last year or two, having new latrines with separate flushing apparatus for each closet. Also the playgrounds have been to a great extent asphalted, thus tending to make them dry and clean, as shown by the few cases of epidemic diseases occurring in this School during the year.

The R.C. SCHOOLS are well arranged and in good condition. There might be some improvements made to the playground, such as recoating with asphalt. The closets are on the latrine principle, with one flush for each set of closets. Some attention had to be paid to one of the drains which had become blocked, and was renovated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Eight samples of milk, 5 of butter and 3 of pepper were taken. There were no prosecutions, all the samples being genuine and passable.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances includes that of Surveyor and Building Inspector. Until June he was part time officer, since then he has been full time, and is now better able to attend to his duties.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are no hospitals in the district, but advantage is taken of those in neighbouring

districts, viz. : The Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, the Small-pox Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Elswick.

AS TO ADMINISTRATION.—Committees are formed, consisting of the whole Council, with a different Chairman for each Committee.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—Four Bacteriological examinations have been made during the year—three suspected of diphtheric and one enteric—with negative results.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On the receipt of a notification of infectious disease, it is immediately visited by the Sanitary Inspector ; all particulars are obtained, and precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and the people are prevailed upon to make use of the Isolation Hospital. All cases treated at home are visited by the Inspector, disinfectants supplied, all precautions taken to prevent the spreading of the disease, and when recovery, or otherwise, takes place, thorough disinfection of clothes and premises.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

There have been nine notifications, eight of the Pulmonary type, and one of Tuberculosis of the Peritonium. On receipt of a notification, the Inspector is informed, and he makes a visit, and finds out the history ; then verbal instructions and pamphlets are given to try to prevent any further spread of the disease. The notifications each week are sent, with particulars, to the County Medical Officer. On the occasion of removal to a sanatorium, or in the event of death, the dwellings are thoroughly disinfected by removal of wall-papers, spraying and fumigation.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

The particular prevalence of Scarlet Fever, the origin of which was traced to a woman who came from Wigan to stay in Wesham in August. There were 4 deaths from Cancerous diseases; 2 of these were between the ages of 25 and 45, 1 between the ages of 45 and 65, and 1 above 65 years. There has only been one case of Enteritis during the year, and it was a child under one year of age. Of the three Phthisis deaths, one occurred at home in Poulton Street, at the age of 54 years, one at the County Asylum, Whittingham, age 40 years, and one at Luneside Sanatorium, at 35 years of age, the last two cases were hereditary.

In concluding my Report, I must congratulate the Council in supporting the efforts of the Officers in carrying out great sanitary improvements during the year; the main feature of the year's work has been the conversion of a large number of privies into water closets, the substitution of ashbins for ashpits, the flagging of backyards and better ventilation of dwelling-houses. There has been a great reduction in all the rates, viz.: The birth-rate has been reduced from 23 in 1914 to 15·6; the death-rate from 14·9 to 13·8; the epidemic death-rate from 1·01 to 0·82; the Phthisis death-rate from 2·02 to 0·82. The infantile death-rate, although somewhat higher than last year, viz., 112 per 1,000, is fairly satisfactory when compared with the average of the last ten years, which is 175. Then the death-rate is the lowest for the last twenty years and the zymotic death-rate is the lowest for the past ten years.

The County Medical Officer of Health, in a letter which he sent you last November, stated—"That the County Public Health and Housing Committee were pleased to note that very considerable sanitary improvements have been carried out in the town."

I am, yours obediently,

CHARLES COURT.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1915 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	4,036	..	88	21·8	46	11	..	..	15	170	57	14·1
1911	3,793	72	75	19·7	72	18	1	25	18	240	95	25·0
1912	3,820	78	81	21·2	40	10·4	1	15	14	172	54	14·1
1913	3,838	84	86	22·4	57	14·8	1	12	30	348	68	17·7
1914	3,950	91	91	23·0	50	12·6	1	10	7	76	59	14·9
1915	3,616	60	62 Males .. 34 Females 28	15·6	44	12·1	3	9	7	112	50 Males.. 25 Females 25	13·8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water).....857

Total population at all ages..... 3,793 } At Census of 1911
Total families or separate occupiers 922 }

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Patients Removed from this District
	At Ages—Years									
	At all Ages									
	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards			
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group).....	4	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	3	..
Erysipelas	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	29	8	17	1	2	..	..	..	21	..
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	1	1
Puerperal Fever	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polionmyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	..	..	1	1	4	2	..	..	3	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS.....	49	1	8	21	4	12	3	..	28	2

TABLE III.—*DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1915, Classified by Age and Cause.*

CAUSES OF DEATH 1	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District 11
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 2 4	2 and under 5 5	5 and under 15 6	15 and under 25/ 7	25 and under 45 8	45 and under 65 9	65 and upwards 10	
All Causes { Certified	48	7	2	5	..	..	7	16	11	..
Uncertified.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Enteric Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..
Rheumatic Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Bronchitis	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Suicide .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	21	..	2	..	..	..	1	9	9	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals.....	50	7	2	5	..	..	8	17	11	..
Sub-Entries included in above figures										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polionmyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE IV.—*INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1915.*

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified	..	1	1	..	2	4	1	1	1	..	7
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Small-pox	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Measles	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Whooping Cough	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria and Croup	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Erysipelas	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous Meningitis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Laryngitis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Pneumonia (all forms)	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Diarrhœa	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Enteritis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Gastritis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Syphilis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Suffocation, overlying	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{	Atelectasis	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Congenital Malformations	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
{	Premature Birth	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	.. ..	1	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	4
{	Other Causes	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	TOTALS	.....	1	1	..	2	4	1	1	1	..	7

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { legitimate.. 57 } 62
 { illegitimate 5 }

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { legitimate infants.. 6 } 7
 { illegitimate infants 1 }

KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Fourth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1915. During the year 119 notices have been served with regard to the abatement of 173 nuisances and the remedying of insanitary conditions, chief of which were defective privies, drains, slopstone pipes, paving and the demolition of obstructive buildings, as will be seen later on in the Report. Several w.c.'s and drains have been blocked during the year; these were remedied as soon as discovered. Two new manholes have been built to the main sewer in Ribby Road.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the town is carried out in a satisfactory manner by our own men and horses and covered carts, under my personal supervision.

The following list gives the names of the streets, and also the number of privies in each street that have been converted into water closets :—

New Row	...	...	...	...	...	19
Marsden Street	...	...	...	...	...	14
Preston Street	...	...	...	...	...	11
Freckleton Street	...	...	...	...	...	10
Poulton Street	...	...	...	...	...	8
Orders Lane	...	...	...	...	...	5
Station Road	...	...	...	...	...	4
Church Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sunny Bank	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fylde Street	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dyer Street	...	...	...	...	...	2
Clegg Street	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ward Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	82

Privies in the town are becoming less in number, and this year 82 have been converted into water closets, and 73 ashbins provided, and two water closets erected in connection with a new farmhouse which is being built.

In most cases where the privies have been converted into water closets, the ashpit floors have been concreted level with the ground, the walls limewashed, the ashpits made into coal-places and in some places the ashpits have been demolished and ashbins substituted. In five different places disused buildings have been converted into wash-houses, and each one provided with a washing boiler. Twenty-three backyards have been flagged, and improvements have been made in a large number of others.

The following is the number of water closets, tippler closets, latrine closets, pail closets, privies and ashbins in the town at the present time as compared with the three previous years :—

	1912	1913	1914	1915
Water closets	298	334	379	463
Tippler closets	28	28	28	28
Latrine closets	39	39	39	39
Pail closets	14	18	18	17
Privies	376	353	336	255
Ashbins	156	176	204	277

The pail closets and ashbins are emptied once a week, and the privies when required.

The number of privies, pail closets and ashbins emptied, and the loads of nightsoil, ashbin refuse and street-sweepings carted during the year are as follows :—

Privies emptied and disinfected	1026
Privy pails emptied and disinfected	915
Ashbins emptied and disinfected	12534
Loads of nightsoil carted to tip	1135
„ street-sweepings	287
„ Ashbin refuse	436

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

The following is the list of cases of infectious diseases notified, and the number of disinfections during the year :—

Number of cases notified of Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	30
„ „ Diphtheria ...	...	...	4
„ „ Enteric ...	...	...	—
„ „ Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	4
„ „ Erysipelas ...	...	...	3
„ „ Tuberculosis ...	...	...	9
Number of deaths from Phthisis ...	...	...	3
Number of Schools disinfected ...	...	...	4
Total number of disinfections ...	...	...	53

All cases were immediately visited upon receipt of notification. Twenty cases of Scarlet Fever and three cases of Diphtheria were removed to Moss Side Hospital, and nine cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were treated at home. After the removal of the patients, the rooms were thoroughly disinfected with formalin. All the cases that were treated at home were visited from time to time, disinfectants left, and instructions given as to the proper isolation of the patient to prevent the spread of the disease. At the termination of a case treated at home the rooms were thoroughly disinfected by spraying with a strong solution of formalin, and then fumigated with formalin in a gaseous form.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Bakers and Confectioners ...	...	...	...	...	9
Boot Repairers ...	...	...	...	...	7
Plumbers ...	...	...	...	...	3
Joiners ...	...	...	...	...	5
Blacksmiths ...	...	...	...	...	2
Cycle and Motor Repairers ...	...	...	...	...	2
Tinsmiths ...	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers ...	...	...	...	...	6
Tailors ...	...	...	...	...	3

There are 29 Workshops and 9 Bakehouses in the town, which have been visited periodically. Notice to lime-wash in three cases was complied with on being notified. With this exception the workshops have been found to comply with the requirements as regards cleanliness, light and air-space, and the conditions of these workrooms are, from a sanitary point of view, satisfactory. The bakehouses have also been kept under supervision, and they have been kept clean, well lighted, and the walls and ceilings frequently limewashed, and the work conducted in a satisfactory manner ; thus the public may rely upon their bread and confectionery being made under the most hygienic conditions.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

At the present time there is only one lodging-house in the town, which is situated in Marsden Street. It is a large building, well arranged, and has sleeping accommodation for 42 men and 33 women, besides separate day-rooms for men and women on the ground floor. These premises have been regularly inspected, both during the daytime and the night, and no case of overcrowding or infectious disease has occurred at these premises during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the town ; one a rag and bone store, and the other tripe-boiling. These premises are visited regularly, and they have not been the source of any trouble.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are four Registered Slaughter-houses in the town, which have been regularly visited, both during slaughtering operations and after. They are all well provided with a good supply of water for cleansing purposes, and they have been kept clean and well limewashed. All the refuse is removed immediately after slaughtering in galvanised bins with covers.

BLACK SMOKE NUISANCE.

The chimney at the laundry has been raised 9 feet higher. Nineteen observations have been made of the amount of black smoke issued from the factory chimneys, each observation being of 60 minutes duration. The observations were made at various times, and the period of emission of black smoke varied from 2 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ minutes per hour during the observation.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

There are 7 Registered Cowsheds and Dairies in the district, and 78 visits have been made to these places. Alterations have been made to several of these cowsheds by increasing the air-space, improvements in ventilation and lighting, and also putting in new brick floors, grouted with cement, in three shippons. A plan for a new brick shippon for 16 cows has been submitted and approved.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total number of visits and inspections	7263
Number of preliminary notices served by Inspector	119
Number of nuisances remedied	173
Number of statutory notices served by order of Council	18
Number of houses disinfected	41
Number of schools disinfected	4
Notice to limewash and cleanse	22
Nuisance from unpaved stable	2
Filthy backyards cleansed under notice	31
Slopstone wastepipes repaired	15
Drains opened out, cleansed and defects recti- fied	37
New drains put in	64
Number of backyards flagged	23
Defective paving in backyards repaired	35

Spouts and gutters cleaned and repaired	...	13
Privies converted into water closets...	...	81
Pail closets converted into water closets	...	1
Number of new ashbins provided	...	73
Notice to remove hens from backyards	...	6
Pigs kept within 60 feet of dwelling-houses	...	1
Notice to remove manure from stables, etc.	...	6
Nuisance from overcrowding	...	1
Number of drains tested with smoke test	...	28
Number of inspections to new buildings	...	72
Number of inspections to factories and work-shops	...	156
Notice to limewash workshops	...	3
Number of inspections to drains and sanitary conveniences to schools	...	29
Number of obstructive and dangerous buildings demolished	...	4

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING ACT, 1909.

A plan was submitted in January, and approved, for alterations to 14 houses on the south side of New Row. The principal items in the scheme were: New drains with three manholes, conversion of privies into water closets and backyards flagged, with a separate yard and w.c. for each house; all fixed windows made so that at least one half will open for ventilation and internal alterations. The Council have purchased a dwelling-house and a warehouse adjoining in Freckleton Street, and demolished them for street-widening improvements.

Ejectment orders were carried out in July to 6 houses in Marsden Street and 8 houses in New Row in order to give the owner an opportunity of carrying out the alterations to the inside of these houses. The 8 houses in New Row are empty at present, and when completed will have to be converted into 4 houses.

A beerhouse at 88, Marsden Street has been converted into 2 dwelling-houses.

Two brick buildings and 2 wood buildings have been demolished.

The number of occupied dwelling-houses in the town at the present time is 940, and taking the population at 3,616, there are on an average four people to each house. I have made a house-to-house inspection of 57 houses under Section 17; several defects were discovered; some of these have been remedied, and the remainder are in the contractor's hands.

Only one case of overcrowding occurred during the year.

Fifty-three fixed windows have been taken out and replaced with larger windows, and made so that one half of each window will open for ventilation.

Ten houses which had been condemned should have been demolished, but demolition orders have been deferred for the present, at the request of the owner.

A boarded floor of a dwelling-house in Marsden Street which was affected with dry-rot has been taken out, and the floor made with nine inches thick of good concrete. Through the greatly enhanced prices of building materials and the scarcity of labour owing to the war, building operations have been very quiet this year.

The following plans were submitted and approved by the Council :—

Plan for alterations to 14 houses on south side of New Row.

- „ New farmhouse and buildings, Carr Hill.
- „ New dairy, Carr Hill.
- „ New shippon in Orders Lane.
- „ New water closet in Marsden Street.
- „ New brick building for laundry, Marsden Street.
- „ Wood building in Preston Street.
- „ Wood building in Station Road.

The following plans were submitted and disapproved by the Council :—

Plan for 7 houses in Ribby Road.

„ Wood building at laundry.

In concluding my Report, I consider the year has been one of satisfactory progress in sanitary work considering the abnormal times through which we have been passing, yet much work and improvement lies before us, and I have reason to believe that during the next few years all the privies will be converted into water closets, and the backyards flagged and improved.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES R. HOLMES,

M.I.H., A.R.S.I., N.D.A.,

Sanitary and Building Inspector.



